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7/20/2009 09:23x

Curios and Relics

Campaign & Patriotic Materials

Flags

Presented to Lincoln

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Chicago Briefs

Search Begun for Unusual Flag Presented to Lincoln in 1861

AN UNUSUAL American flag, hand-painted on silk, which was presented to President Lincoln by a Chicagoan in 1861, became the object of a nation-wide search yesterday.

Members of K.A.M. Temple, 920 E. 50th st., are sending letters throughout the country, in the hope the flag may be found in time for the temple's 100th anniversary next fall.

Lincoln, Chicagoan Friends.

Donor of the flag was Abraham Kohn, owner of a men's clothing store, as well as being a Republican, an Abolitionist, and a political power in Chicago. Lincoln met him while on a visit to Chicago shortly after his election in 1860 and the two became friends.

Kohn immediately began work on the flag, which showed 35 stars, and bore on the stripes in Hebrew letters the fourth and ninth verses of the first chapter of Joshua. The flag was received by Lincoln in February, 1861.

McKinley Mentioned Name.

Little was thought of the incident, however, until President McKinley mentioned the flag in a speech.

Since then, several attempts have been made to locate the flag, and even McKinley attempted to aid the search, but to no avail. War Department records, war relics of the State Department, Lincoln relics, all failed to bring the flag to light.

There is only an old glass photographic negative showing the banner.



Henry L. Kohn Jr., 1225 E. 50th st., with photographic reproduction of the missing hand-painted flag. He is a great grand nephew of the painter.

Chicago - 2-11-17



HOTEL SHORELAND
FIFTY-FIFTH STREET AT THE LAKE
CHICAGO 15

Mr. Louis A. Warren: April 27, 1947.

Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Doctor Warren:

Mr. Ralph Newman of the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop suggested that I write to you in regard to an episode in the life of my grandfather, Abraham Kohr who came to Chicago in 1843 and lived here until his death in 1871.

Governor Wm Mc Kenley gave some publicity to it in several addresses on Patriotism, telling that Abraham Kohr presented to Abraham Lincoln in 1861 on the latter's departure from Springfield the painting of an American Flag, inscribed on the white stripes with a quotation from Joshua.

This was the handwork of my grandfather and my family has been searching for a trace of the flag for many years, as well as the letter of thanks that Lincoln wrote to him from the White House. as far as I know the first reference to this flag is in "Pretble's History of the Flag."



HOTEL SHORELAND
FIFTY-FIFTH STREET AT THE LAKE
CHICAGO 15

Mr. Newman told me that you have a file of Lincoln clippings and data more complete than any in existence, so I am hoping that you can throw some light on the "mystery of the lost flag and letter."

Would you advise my coming to Fort Wayne some day to spend a few hours between trains? Are visitors welcome at the Foundation? Of course I am greatly interested in all Lincoln treasures and that would make the visit a privilege.

With kindest greetings I am

Yours Sincerely

(Mrs. Juliette.) Sara A. Wag.

P.S. I have a photographic plate of the Flag + prints of it too, if you care to have one.

Flags

April 28, 1947

Mrs. Julius E. Weil
Hotel Shoreland
Fifty-Fifth Street at the Lake
Chicago, 15, Illinois

My dear Mrs. Weil:

We have made a careful search of our files on
Lincoln flags but we do not find anywhere information about
the flag presented to Mr. Lincoln by Abraham Kohn.

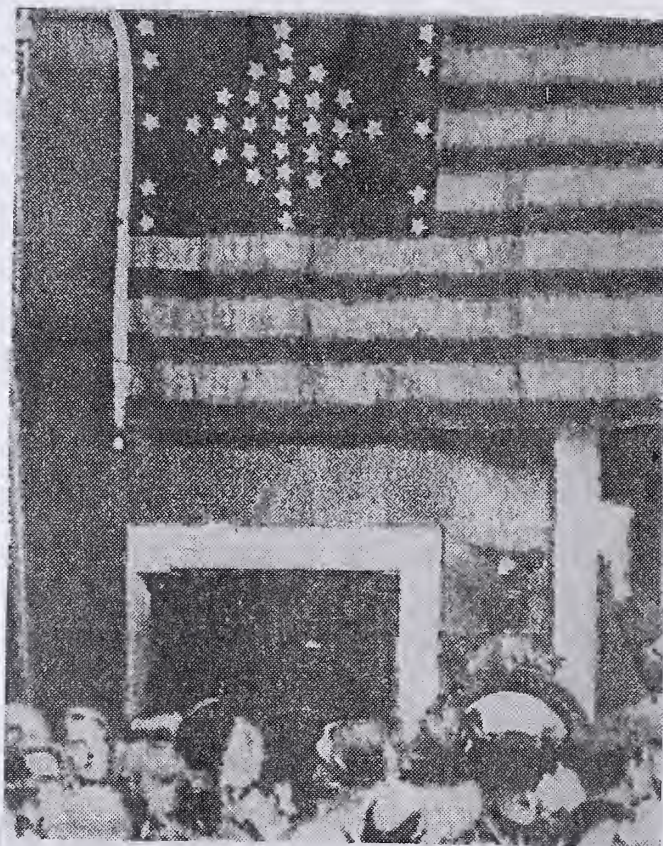
We would be very happy to have you come to Fort Wayne
any time it is convenient and you might find what you are after,
as we have a tremendous lot of information that has not as yet
been properly filed.

The Museum is open from 8:00 A.M. until 4:30 P.M.
except Saturdays.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director



[UPI Cablephoto]

Auction room in London is crowded during bidding for 37-star American flag which was designed in 1865.

(Story on page 2)

A LINCOLN FLAG BRINGS \$16,240 IN LONDON AUCTION

(Picture on back page)

LONDON, Feb. 18 [Reuters]

A 37-star American flag presented to Abraham Lincoln for approval three days before his assassination because it was the first one made of native bunting, was auctioned here today for \$16,240.

Name of the buyer was not revealed. Bidding on his behalf was conducted by an employee of the auctioneers, Sotheby's.

The flag, measuring 12 feet by six feet, has 27 stars arranged in a diamond-shaped pattern, with the remaining 10 stars arranged in two vertical lines. On March 2, 1865, Congress directed that American flags should be made of bunting produced in the United States.



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